Colleagues,

Did you know, ALL combat Veterans discharged from active duty on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible for medical care, five years post discharge? This means any Veteran who served in "a theater of combat operations" may be eligible for <u>complete</u> health care coverage for five years after departing the service.

To determine eligibility, please visit the <u>Veterans Health Administration (VHA) website</u>. If eligible, enrollment can be completed on the <u>VA website</u>, in-person, by phone or mail.

A word of caution, like any government program – there are nuances. For example, generally this program does not apply to family members but might in limited instances (for example; caregivers).

However, if a Veteran only requires medical coverage for themselves and no other family member, for that time period (five years), the purchase of additional health insurance or coverage may not be necessary. This can be a powerful savings for both the Veteran and/or an employer.

The <u>VHA website</u> provides information on comprehensive Health Benefits and includes a link to their fully developed Veterans Health Benefits Guide. Please help us spread the word to deserving Veterans. For more information, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), 8 AM -8 PM EST, Monday – Friday.

Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420

VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence ("I CARE")